

## AMERICAN PEARLS FOUND IN PLENTY.

The pearl boom is the latest successor of Klondike and its attendant excitements. For several weeks the people of Arkansas have been worked up over the discovery of pearls in some of the lakes and rivers of that State, and in some places half the population have been industriously digging mussels in the hope of sudden wealth, while the rest of the country has been agitating itself on the subject of dollar wheat. A New York di-

where the treasures lie will supply the adventurer with as many unpleasant experiences as Chilcot Pass. Besides the malaria that hangs round the lakes and swamps, they contain sulphur and iron, which give the water a decidedly unpleasant yellowish tinge. The places in which pearls have thus far been discovered are Murphy and Walker Lakes, Cross Lake, Sulphur and Four-Mile Ponds and the creeks flowing into them. These are all in

same place, and he was going back after them.

A man named Deale, in Bald Knob, sent a dozen pearls to New York, and has received an offer of \$100. He found them all in the course of a week.

J. P. Smith, of Four-Mile Lake, has been gathering pearls for several months, but has been keeping quiet about it. He says that he has sold about \$1000 worth, and still has some very good stones in his possession.

John Gorman found a \$100 pearl at the mouth of a creek that runs into the Little River River.

Three brothers (colored) named Hopkins, claim to have taken \$1200 worth of stones from the river and the ponds near it.

Many of the natives in White County have in their possession pearls of more or less value taken from the ponds before the excitement set in. Many of them decline to say anything about

year and are capable of carrying another thousand pounds. Unlike other large cattle, their flesh is distributed very evenly, which adds very much to their looks, and they stand on their limbs as straight as a pair of calves.

"They are remarkably intelligent and well trained, as you can judge from the position which they take in the photograph. They are very active and can easily walk a mile in thirty minutes. They are colored, like all pure Holsteins, black and white. Their coats are as fine and glossy as a thoroughbred racer's. They are still worked moderately when at home. Their yoke was made to order, and probably is the largest yoke ever worn by any team. It is seven feet in length and weighs 200 pounds.

"Their crowning glory is their magnificent set of highly polished horns. For size, quality, mating, and beauty combined their equal does not exist in the world. It may be of interest to know that their food consists of eight to twelve quarts of corn and oats ground together, two quarts of flax meal, and from six to eight quarts of bran each day, with an occasional change to suit their appetites."

### BARON NORDENSKIÖLD.

Career of the Great Explorer—One of Sweden's Most Widely Known Men.

Baron Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld is the most widely known of Sweden's great men. Although distinguished for his family and high social stand-



BARON NORDENSKIÖLD.

ing, the baron has won for himself a great name in science. His family had long been eminent in scientific pursuits, and he began his studies with his father, Nils Gustaf, who was the chief of the Finland mining department. He entered the University of Helsingfors in 1849, and spent his vacation in the study of mineralogy. Of that science he soon became an eminent exponent. He was forced from his native country of Finland by the Russian Government, and chose Sweden to live in. He traveled to Spitzbergen, and on his return to Stockholm was appointed director of the mineralogical department. In 1868 he made his first great polar voyage and attained a latitude of eighty-one degrees and forty-two minutes. In 1872 he decided to make another trip to northward, and it was on this voyage that he made the first attempt to penetrate the inland ice in the interior. His researches on this voyage were of vast importance to science. Nordenskiöld now turned his attention to Siberian exploration and accomplished much in that direction. Backed by the Swedish King, the doctor made an effort for the discovery of the northeast passage in 1878. His vessel was the Vega, and she reached Japan one year after sailing. On his return he was made a baron and appointed a commander of the Order of the North Star. Baron Nordenskiöld has written voluminously on scientific subjects.

### Cheap Living.

Paraguay, in South America, is a cheap place to live in. A house servant there costs only \$2.45 a month; and ordinary ones not so well trained only \$1.64 a month. A cook can be hired for about \$1 a week for a good

### SCIENTIFIC CASES

In Pennsylvania a ~~man~~ ~~was~~ ~~the~~ possession, sale or trans-  
eased trees.

What is claimed to be a very early factory imitation of camphor is now manufactured by passing hydrochloric acid into spirits of turpentine surrounded by a freezing mixture.

In Illinois there is a big steel plant where the red-hot ingots, billets and plates are handled by huge electromagnets. They take steel weighing five tons and transport it safely to any distance.

A shoal of small diamonds was recently discovered in the crater of an extinct volcano in the mountains of Natal. The presence of the diamonds in such a situation leads to the belief that nature may use volcanic action in the process of making diamonds. This conclusion should be confirmed by further observation, however, before being accepted as final.

Neapolitans have a bad reputation for ill treatment of animals, and the Naples S. P. C. A. seems to have plenty to do. During last year its agents stopped 44,321 carts for carrying too heavy loads, and in nearly one-half the cases had the load reduced; they confiscated 41,011 sticks used for beating animals and 887 spikes used on curbchairs; 2282 convictions for cruelty were obtained.

According to the Revue de l'Electricite, birds are provided for in a wonderful way by nature. It may be noticed that their plumage is always tidy, no matter how rapid their flight may have been a moment before the time of our observing them. This, says the French paper, is due to the feathers being electrified positively, the down negatively by the air, so that the attraction between them makes them cling together in their place. This is very interesting, if the statement can be substantiated.

From a study of the infection of animals with the bubonic plague, Dr. James Cantlie concludes that the rat is the most likely to be attacked, that diseased rats may infect other animals—such as snakes and jackals—that consume them, that rats are always affected when man has the plague, and that the rat may infect man in some unknown way. The great mortality observed among rats before the appearance of the plague in man may not really be due to earlier infection, but possibly to a shorter incubation period.

### Regarded It as Impossible.

A groan of horror escaped from passing pedestrians as the scaffolding gave way, and the form of the house painter was seen to drop through the air. He bounced on the third-story cornice, struck the balcony ledge in front of the second-story window, plunged into a pile of bricks in the roadway and rolled to the pavement with a thud.

Strong men turned away their faces. A woman fainted. The engineer, who was getting a breath of air in the area bounded up the stairs and stooped over the prostrate form. As he did so the prostrate form rose with a spring and knocked him nearly off his feet.

"Aren't you hurt?" asked everybody in a breath.

"Hurt!" was the contemptuous response. "Why, I've ridden a bicycle every day for five years."—Answers.

### Jumping Cocoons.

Some of our readers who have been in Mexico, or the southwestern United States, may have amused themselves by watching the queer motion of "jumping beans," which are the seed-vessels of a plant, each of which contains the pupa of an insect whose spasmodic movements cause the bean to hop and roll about. More remarkable are the "jumping cocoons," recently described by Doctor Sharp in the Entomologist, and found in South Africa. The cocoon is formed by the mother insect, and is very hard. The pupa, when ready to emerge, must cut its way out. The front of its head has a "sharp chisel edge," and by driving this against the inside of the shell it gradually makes a hole. The violent motions of the pupa within cause the cocoon to leap so that one has been seen to spring out of a small glass tumbler.—Youth's Companion.

### Had Business in Town Once in Seven Years.

Woodson Heathman, who owns a good farm between here and Newby, was in town recently for the first time in seven years. This is remarkable when it is considered that Mr. Heathman is in good health, lives only three and one-half miles from Richmond, and every day can see from his yard the water tower and courthouse cupola. He is seventy-four years old, and was born on the spot where he now lives. He says during all these years he had no business in town and therefore saw no reason why he should come.—Richmond (Ky.) Register.

### Talked Too Freely.

A Galician socialist candidate for the Reichsrath, having proclaimed the stupid the unpleasant truth that the Emperor of Austria cannot declare war without first consulting the Reichsrath, has been sentenced to eight months' hard labor, including a day once a fortnight, for lese majeste.



SCENES AND INCIDENTS OF AMERICAN PEARL FISHERIES.

among broker recently exhibited a very large pearl which had been sent to him from the Arkansas field, just what part of it he refused to say.

The stone is one of the finest specimens of the "sweetwater" variety ever seen in New York. It is perfectly formed, slightly oval in shape, of a pure white, and weighs thirty-five grains. It is valued at \$800. Another broker recently received a consignment of Arkansas pearls, which included a pink pearl, weighing twenty-six grains. It is worth not more than \$100, however, on account of a slight blemish on one side. Many smaller pearls have come from this same region during the past week, and there is talk of a New York company to work some of the Arkansas pearl lakes. It is possible, however, that they will be late in the field, as a Memphis company has already leased one of the most promising lakes for a term of five years for \$4500, and individual speculators have obtained control of several others.

The Klondike excitement is not to be compared with the enthusiasm in Northern Arkansas over the recent finds of pearls. At Helena and Little Rock family parties are going out to camp along the river and hunt for pearls. Most of these parties have found only small stones, but one woman picked up a pink pearl worth \$50, and two small boys, who were looking for clams and not for pearls found two stones which they sold for \$25 apiece. Most of the valuable finds, however, have been made in the lakes and ponds, which are controlled by private individuals or by companies. In some places the owners have had to stand guard with shotguns to keep off the enthusiastic pearl seekers, who have been accustomed to hunt clams wherever they wished, and who think that the mere fact that the shells may contain gems worth \$100 or so ought not to make any difference in this right.

The Arkansas pearl fisheries are recommended as a good substitute for Alaska for those who are in search of hardship and adventure. There is not so much frost and snow, but there is plenty of malaria, which is apt to carry off the unacclimated visitor, and the swamps and forests which one has to traverse in order to reach the lakes

the Bald Knob country southwest of Memphis.

Several Memphis citizens have invested money in leases in White County, and the concern already referred to will make an organized effort to develop the industry in the lakes and ponds which it controls. This company has already taken out several hundred dollars' worth of pearls, but so far the work has all been done by colored diggers and divers, who are paid \$2 per day for their services. On account of the color of the water they have to feel for the clams, which are buried in the mud, with their hands or bare feet, and so can work effectively only in shallow places. As soon as machinery can be put in, however, the bottom of the lakes, including the deeper parts, will be thoroughly dredged, and it is expected that more satisfactory results will be obtained. It is the theory of the Memphis men who are backing the enterprise that mussels occasionally shed their pearls, and that others that have died still contain the gems, and will be found buried deep down in the mud at the bottom of the lakes.

It is possible, too, that the manufacture of mother of pearl will be started to utilize the shells, as is done in Lower California, from whence most of the pearl used for buttons for our waist-coats and dresses now come from. Mother of pearl, it may be explained, is simply the smooth inside lining of the shell, which is cut out and used for buttons and ornaments.

Instances of rich finds are reported every few days from Bald Knob or the adjoining country. A few days ago a colored man, who gave his name as Harris, walked into a Memphis jewelry store and exhibited a small bag of pearls. Most of the stones were small and worth not more than \$4 or \$5 each, but there were a few of larger size, including one or two pink pearls of very good quality. An offer of \$100 was made for the lot. The colored man held out for more, and finally accepted \$150. He said that he had worked for a month and had opened thousands of shells to get the stones. He acknowledged that he was from "down White County way," but refused to tell where he had found the gems, as he said that there were more in the

their finds, as they don't wish to encourage a rush to the spot.

### WORLD'S LARGEST OXEN.

Weight 7300 Pounds—Yokes Seven Feet Long—Have Hauled 11,061 Pounds.

The greatest yoke of cattle ever seen in this country is owned by J. D. Avery, of Buckland, Mass. They are named Joe and Jerry. Their age is eight years and they measure ten feet in girth. They stand seventeen hands high, and their measurement from tip to tip is fifteen feet eleven inches. There is not a difference of ten pounds in weight between them, and the two together tip the scales at 7300 pounds. They hold the world's record for one pull, having drawn 11,061 pounds of stone, loaded on a drag, on a level, just eight feet in one draw. They are models of symmetry in build, are extremely kind and docile and beautifully colored. The best of care is devoted to them, one man spending several hours every day in grooming and cleaning them. They have been on exhibition at all of the



THE WORLD'S LARGEST OXEN.

principal agricultural fairs in the country.

In speaking of his handsome yoke of oxen Mr. Avery said: "The oxen have not by any means reached their limit; they have gained in weight some seven hundred pounds the past

one, though a fair one can be hired for \$3.20 a month.

A Minnesota farmer has raised enough corn on ten acres to heat his house and feed two horses and a cow through the winter.